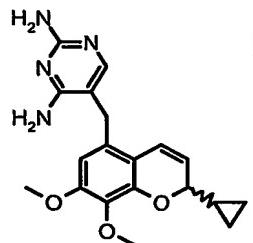


## Claims

**1. A process for preparing the compound of the formula I**

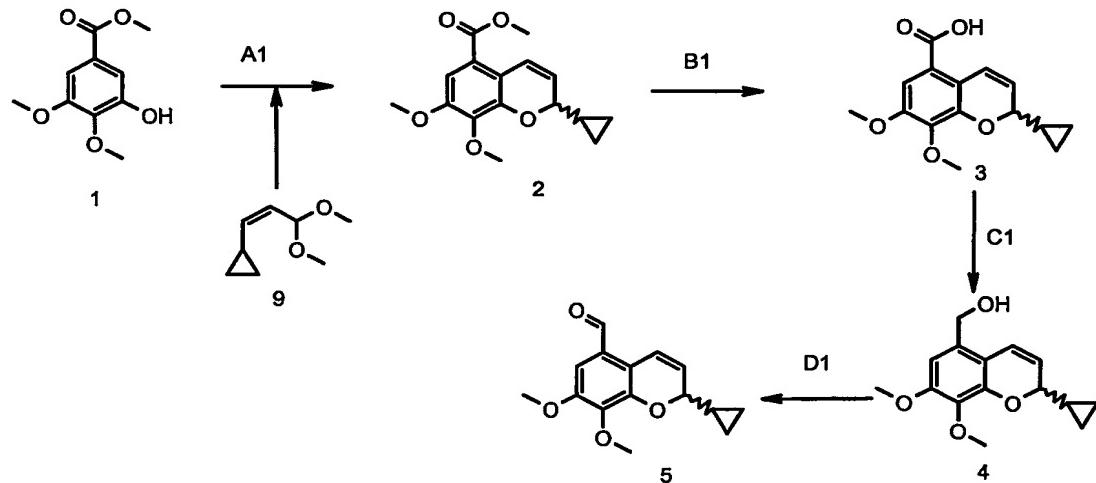
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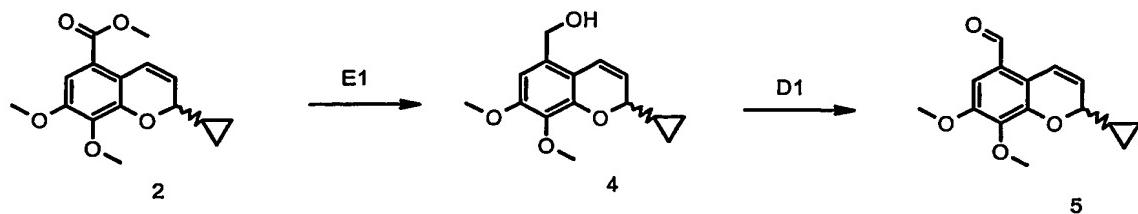
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- a) reacting either a compound of formula 1 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain a compound of formula 2, which is hydrolyzed to the compound of formula 3, which in turn is reduced to a compound of formula 4 and thereafter oxidized to obtain the compound of formula 5; or

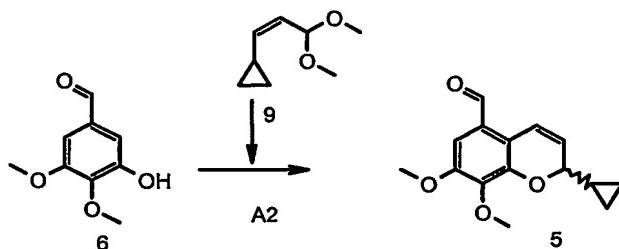


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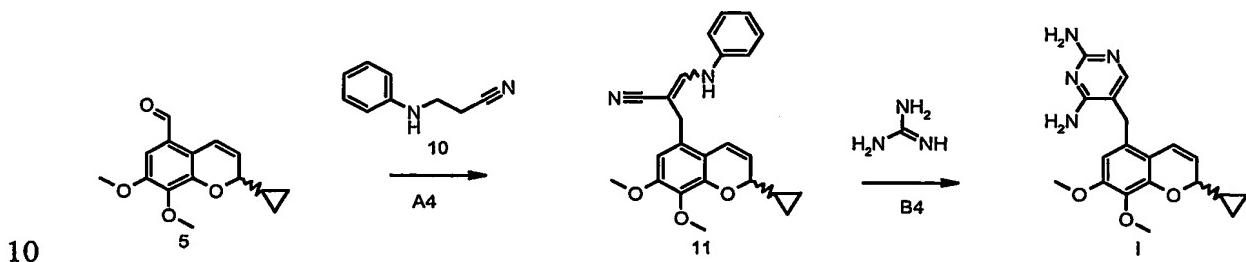
- b) reducing the compound of formula 2 directly to the compound of formula 4, and thereafter oxidizing the compound of formula 4 to form the compound of formula 5; or



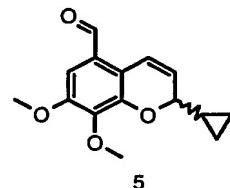
- c) reacting a compound of formula 6 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain the compound of formula 5; and



- 5 d) transforming the compound of formula 5 into the compound of formula I by reacting the compound of formula 5 with the propionitrile of formula 10 to obtain the compound of formula 11, which is reacted with guanidine to form the compound of formula I, and, if desired, forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof in a manner known per se.

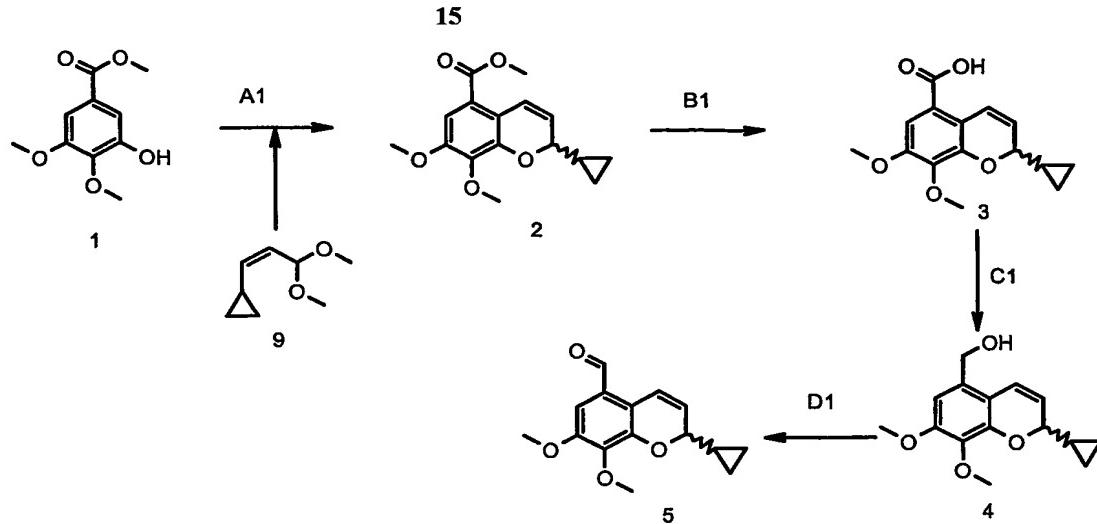


2. The process of Claim 1, wherein the compounds of formulae 2, 5 and 11 are used in the subsequent steps without isolation.
- 15 3. A process for preparing the compound of formula 5

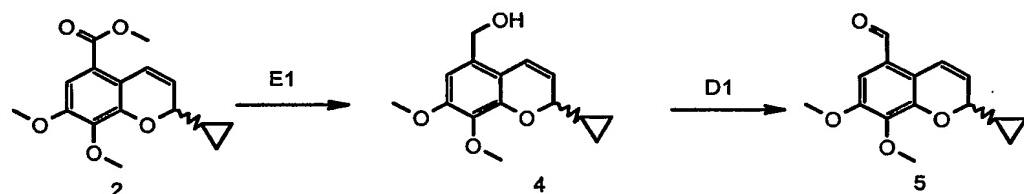


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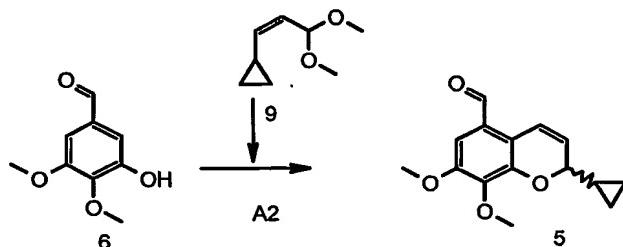
- 20 a) reacting a compound of formula 1 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain a compound of formula 2, which is hydrolyzed to the compound of formula 3, which in turn is reduced to a compound of formula 4 and thereafter oxidized to obtain the compound of formula 5; or



- b) reducing the compound of formula 2 directly to the compound of formula 4, and thereafter oxidizing the compound of formula 4 to form the compound of formula 5; or
- 5

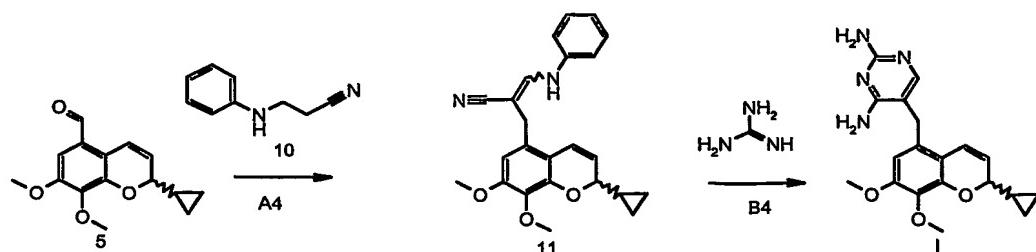


- c) reacting a compound of formula 6 with a compound of formula 9 to obtain the compound of formula 5; and, if desired,

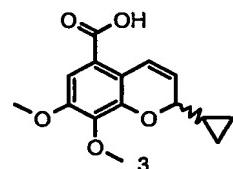


- 10 d) transforming the compound of formula 5 into the compound of formula 1 by reacting the compound of formula 5 with the propionitrile of formula 10 or an analogous derivative thereof to obtain the compound of formula 11 in a manner known per se, which is reacted with guanidine to form the compound of formula 1.

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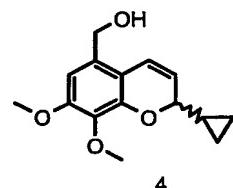


#### 4. The compound of formula 3



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#### 5. The compound of formula 4



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